What Is Claim d Is:

1. A method for managing memory usage comprising:

determining whether a file stored on a user/hardware accessible portion of a non-volatile memory device in a computing system has been accessed within a pre-determined period; and

if the file has not been accessed within the pre-determined period, purging the file to enable the recovery of storage space in the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device being occupied by unused or infrequently accessed files.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein a file comprises a variable.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein access-aging policies based on heuristics that are platform specific to the computing system are used to determine whether a file stored on the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device has been accessed within a pre-determined period.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein purging the file comprises deleting the file from the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein purging the file comprises deleting the file from the computing system.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein purging the file comprises offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file indefinitely.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a FLASH memory device and wherein offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device comprises:

copying the file to the alternative non-volatile memory device; and

deleting the file from the FLASH memory device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a first non-volatile memory device and wherein purging the file comprises:

copying the file to a second non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file for an indefinite period of time; and

deleting the file from the first non-volatile memory device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first non-volatile memory device comprises a non-volatile random access memory device and the second non-volatile memory device comprises at least one of a hard drive, a tape drive, a writeable compact disk (CD) drive, a floppy disk drive, and a remote location on a network.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) device.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the NVRAM device comprises a FLASH memory device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the FLASH memory device comprises a main system firmware portion and the user/hardware accessible portion, wherein the memory capacity of the main system firmware portion is larger than the memory capacity of the user/hardware accessible portion.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the main system firmware portion comprises computer program code to maintain the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether a file stored on a user/hardware accessible portion of a non-volatile memory device in a computing system has been accessed within a pre-determined period further comprises determining whether the file is stale.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein a user interacts with the computing system to determine which stale files in a list of files indicated as being stored on the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device are selected to be purged.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device to prevent depletion of available user/hardware accessible space.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein monitoring the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device comprises altering access-aging policies to accelerate the purging of files from the user/hardware accessible portion to prevent depletion of the any remaining user/hardware accessible space.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring available user/hardware accessible space to prevent storage of files comprising storage allotments that exceed or limit the amount of the available user/hardware accessible space.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein purging the file comprises offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file indefinitely, wherein if the file is needed, the computing system will retrieve the file from the alternative non-volatile memory device when the file is not found in the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

20. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for determining whether a file stored on a user/hardware accessible

portion of a non-volatile memory device in a computing system has been accessed within a pre-determined period; and

if the file has not been accessed within the pre-determined period, purging the file to enable the recovery of storage space in the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device being occupied by unused or infrequently accessed files.

21. The article of claim 20, wherein a file comprises a variable.

22. The article of claim 20, wherein access-aging policies based on heuristics that are platform specific to the computing system are used to determine whether a file stored on the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device has been accessed within a pre-determined period.

23. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for purging the file comprises instructions for deleting the file from the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

24. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for purging the file comprises instructions for deleting the file from the computing system.

25. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for purging the file comprises instructions for offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file indefinitely.

26. The article of claim 25, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a FLASH memory device and wherein instructions for offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device comprises instructions for:

copying the file to the alternative non-volatile memory device; and

deleting the file from the FLASH memory device.

27. The article of claim 20, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a first non-volatile memory device and wherein instructions for purging the file comprises instructions for:

copying the file to a second non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file for an indefinite period of time; and

deleting the file from the first non-volatile memory device.

28. The article of claim 27, wherein the first non-volatile memory device comprises a non-volatile random access memory device and the second non-volatile memory device comprises at least one of a hard drive, a tape drive, a writeable compact disk (CD) drive, a floppy disk drive, and a remote location on a network.

29. The article of claim 20, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises a non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) device.

30. The article of claim 29, wherein the NVRAM device comprises a FLASH memory device.

31. The article of claim 30, wherein the FLASH memory device comprises a main system firmware portion and the user/hardware accessible portion, wherein the memory capacity of the main system firmware portion is larger than the memory capacity of the user/hardware accessible portion.

32. The article of claim 31, wherein the main system firmware portion comprises computer program code to maintain the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

33. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for determining whether a file stored on a user/hardware accessible portion of a non-volatile memory device in a computing system has been accessed within a pre-determined period further comprises instructions for determining whether the file is stale.

34. The article of claim 33, wherein a user interacts with the computing system to determine which stale files in a list of files indicated as being stored on the

user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device are selected to be purged.

35. The article of claim 20, further comprising instructions for monitoring the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device to prevent depletion of available user/hardware accessible space.

36. The article of claim 35, wherein instructions for monitoring the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device comprises instructions for altering access-aging policies to accelerate the purging of files from the user/hardware accessible portion to prevent depletion of the any remaining user/hardware accessible space.

37. The article of claim 20, further comprising instructions for monitoring available user/hardware accessible space to prevent storage of files comprising storage allotments that exceed or limit the amount of the available user/hardware accessible space.

38. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for purging the file comprises instructions for offloading the file to an alternative non-volatile memory device capable of storing the file indefinitely, wherein if the file is needed, the computing system will retrieve the file from the alternative non-volatile memory device when the file is not found in the user/hardware accessible portion of the non-volatile memory device.

39. A computing system comprising

a processor; and

a non-volatile memory device coupled to the processor, the non-volatile memory device comprising a main system firmware portion and a user/hardware accessible portion, the main system firmware portion comprising computer program code for enabling the process to manage memory usage of the user/hardware accessible portion.

40. The computing system of claim 39, wherein the non-volatile memory device comprises at least one non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) device.

41. The computing system of claim 39, wherein the computer program code of the main system firmware portion includes access-aging policies based on heuristics that are platform specific to enable management of the memory usage of the user/hardware accessible portion, wherein files stored within the user/hardware accessible portion are purged when the files have not been accessed within a pre-determined period of time.

42. The computing system of claim 39, wherein the memory capacity of the user/hardware accessible portion is less than the memory capacity of the main system firmware portion of the non-volatile memory.

43. The computing system of claim 39, further comprising an alternate non-volatile storage device, wherein files stored within the user/hardware accessible portion that have not been accessed within a pre-determined period of time are offloaded to the alternate non-volatile storage device, wherein the alternate non-volatile storage device is capable of storing the files indefinitely.